Contents

Preface by Michel Al-Maqdissi and Daniele Morandi Bonacossi	p.	11
Introduction: origin of a study on the late MBA and LBA ceramic		
horizon of Central Western Syria	»	13
I. Geographical and historical background of Central Syria		
in about the mid second millennium BC	>>	19
Geographical, historical and archaeological context	>>	19
Definition of the area: cultural and geographical traits of		
Central Syria	>>	19
Problems of stratigraphy and chronology	>>	23
Historical context	>>	25
History and ceramics: a conflicting relationship?	»	32
II. The MB-LB ceramic horizon in Syria	»	35
Central Western Syria	>>	35
Tell Mardikh/Ebla	>>	35
Tell Afis	»	40
Hama	>>	41
Tell Nebi Mend/Qadesh	»	44
Summary of Central Western Syria. A critical review of the state		
of research	»	45
The Upper Euphrates and the area around it	»	47
Tell Umm el Marra	>>	47
El Qitar	>>	49
Tell Hadidi	»	51
Summary of the Euphrates area	>>	53
Coastal Syria	>>	53
Tell Atchana/Alalakh	»	54
Ras Shamra/Ugarit	»	57
Tell Sukas/Shukshu	*	60
Summary of coastal sites	»	62
Southern Syria, Lebanon and the evidence from peripheral sites	»	62
Summary of southern sites and final considerations	*	65
III. Tell Mishrifeh/Qatna: description and analysis of the		
archaeological contexts	>>	69
Introduction	*	69
Tell Mishrifeh: a general description	»	69

Contents

History of research on the site	»	69
The new research	>>	70
Operation J	>>	70
Operation K	*	76
Operation T (Areas T2-T3). The Eastern Palace	>>	81
Concordance among J, K and T2-3 phases: seriation and problems	»	85
IV. The pottery database	»	89
The Qatna ceramic analysis	>>	89
The formal classification	*	89
Primary classification	»	89
Secondary classification	>>	90
The physical classification	»	94
V. The corpus of data: analysis of late MBA and LBA forms and		ζ
fabrics from operations J, K and T2-T3	>>	97
Methods of analysis	»	97
Introduction: the vessel-form classification and its correspondence		
with rim diameters	»	98
Analysis of the fabrics	>>	103
Introduction	»	103
The late MBA pottery	>>	103
The LBA pottery	»	106
The late MBA form types	»	108
Introduction	»	108
The open forms	>>	109
The closed forms	»	116
Bases and decorations	»	121
The LBA form types	»	124
The open forms	»	124
The closed forms	»	130 136
Bases, decorations and vessel stands	»	156
Final considerations on the ceramic parallels with the late MBA		139
and LBA pottery from Qatna	»	135
Impact of Qatna's ceramic sequence on Central Western Syrian sites	»	140
VI. Conclusions	»	161
A seriation of the late MBA and LBA diagnostics	<i>"</i>	161
Relative chronology: does it fit the ceramic sequences?	<i>"</i>	161
Ceramic types longevity and the importance of pottery	//	101
as chronological indicator	»	171
MB and LB fabrics	<i>"</i>	172
MB II diagnostic forms	<i>"</i>	174
MB III diagnostic forms	<i>"</i>	175
LB I diagnostic forms	<i>"</i>	176
LB IIA diagnostic forms	»	176
Final considerations	»	177
Innovation and conservation in the ceramic horizon	»	177
Palaeoenvironment, economy and sustenance in Qutna	<i>**</i>	179
The late MBA and LBA in Central Syria: a regional approach on		
the basis of the Qatna ceramic culture	»	181

	Contents
The 'continuation/interruption' problem at Hama Regional unity; expansion of the ceramic tradition from the	» 181
late MBA to the LBA	» 182
Bibliography	» 189
Abstract	» 203
CATALOGUE OF POTTERY	» 207